

measures. H.R. 4075, as amended, includes text which falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2006.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I ask your cooperation to help schedule, consideration by the House of Representatives of H.R. 4075, the Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2006, during the week of July 17–21, 2006. I have proposed an amendment to this bill which includes text from S. 2013, the United States–Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2005. Obviously, the Committee on International Relations has a jurisdictional interest in this Senate bill.

My staff has worked with yours to develop a mutually-agreed on text for this amendment, and I have enclosed this amendment for your review. I ask that you not seek a referral of H.R. 4075 based on the inclusion of this language to expedite Floor scheduling. Of course, this action would not be considered as waiving or affecting your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the amendment, nor as precedent for any future referrals of similar measures. Moreover, if the bill is conferred with the Senate, I would support naming International Relations Committee members to the conference committee for the polar bear provisions. I would also be pleased to include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the Floor.

Mr. Chairman, I have been very pleased with the tremendous degree of cooperation between our two Committees. Your staff has been responsive and thoughtful, and my staff very much appreciates their support and teamwork. I hope that you will give my request serious consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

RICHARD POMBO,
Chairman.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 4075, the “Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2006.” I understand that the text of your proposed amendment contains text from S. 2013, the “United States–Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2005.”

The language in question does impact the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations. However, since our committees have developed a mutually agreed-upon text for this amendment, I will agree not to seek a referral of H.R. 4075 in order to expedite your Committee’s ability to schedule this for House consideration.

I appreciate your willingness to support the appointment of conferees from this Committee on this matter, should it go to con-

ference. Please place our exchange of letters into the Record during the debate on this matter.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in 1972 Congress enacted the Marine Mammal Protection Act to protect marine mammals from harmful human activities. It is a landmark statute in our pantheon of national environmental laws, providing for the conservation and management of whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals.

In the past, consideration of amendments to MMPA was done on a bipartisan basis, such as significant changes made by Congress in 1994. However, during this Congress, I have stood opposed to further consideration of MMPA legislation the Resources Committee approved almost 1 year to this day, until today. Let me emphasize that my opposition was until today.

This was because the bill would have eliminated a fundamental mandate of MMPA known as the “deadline for the zero rate mortality goal.” In other words, we, as a Nation, are to strive to put into place management regimes which will reduce, and ideally eliminate, marine mammal fatalities at the hands of human beings.

The troublesome provision which would have eliminated the deadline has been dropped from the legislation we are now considering. In this regard I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman POMBO for agreeing to this, and I am pleased to say that I support the bill as amended today and urge its approval by this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4075, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, MASSACHUSETTS ACT OF 2006

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4376) to authorize the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Common-

wealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4376

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Site commemorates the role of the Springfield Armory in the Nation’s military history, a role that the Armory served for almost 200 years.

(2) The role of the Springfield Armory began in 1777, when the site was selected as the location for a magazine and laboratory for the development, production and storage of guns and powder during the American Revolution.

(3) Following the American Revolutionary War, in 1794 Congress officially established the Springfield Armory and for much of the 19th century the Springfield Armory developed and supplied most of the military small arms manufactured by the United States for the United States Armed Services.

(4) In addition to its historical role in the development and manufacturing of small arms, the Springfield Armory was also the site of Shay’s Rebellion.

(5) In 1968 the Armory was deactivated as a military installation and in 1974 Congress established the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. A portion of the Site is administered by the National Park Service. The remainder of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, known as the “Preservation Control Area”, is owned and administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College.

(6) The Preservation Control Area contains several historic buildings that are in a state of disrepair. The deteriorating condition of these historic buildings threatens to undermine the character and integrity of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site and their repair, renovation, maintenance and rehabilitation is essential to the continued preservation of the Site and its museum and collections.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION CONTROL AREA DEFINED.

For purposes of this Act, the term “Preservation Control Area” means that portion of the Site that is owned by the Commonwealth, as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts dated August 21, 1999.

SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PRESERVATION CONTROL AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College to provide financial assistance to that college for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating, and rehabilitating any historic structures within the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, including historic structures located within the Preservation Control Area.

(b) FIFTY PERCENT MATCH.—The Federal share of the cost of activities carried out using any assistance or grant under this Act shall not exceed 50 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman

from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4376, introduced by Congressman RICHARD NEAL of Massachusetts and amended by the House Resources Committee, would authorize the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College to maintain and preserve lands the college owns and administers within the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

This is a noncontroversial bill, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the majority has already explained the purpose of H.R. 4376, which was introduced by our colleague from Massachusetts, Representative RICHARD NEAL.

For nearly 200 years, the Springfield Armory was important to the manufacture of U.S. military small arms.

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The national historic site, which was established in 1974, includes historic resources administered by the National Park Service as well as historic resources owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

The gentleman from Massachusetts, Representative NEAL, is to be commended for his efforts to preserve this historic site. He has worked diligently to maintain and enhance the relationship between Federal, State and local interests involved in the preservation and interpretation of the historic resources located at the Springfield Armory site.

Mr. Speaker, we support H.R. 4376 and urge adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add a personal note, if I could.

In 1960, my father, Major General Gene Renzi, went to Springfield Armory and bought two 30.06 sniper rifles that were used in the Korean War. We

bought them for \$1 each. We restored them, and those are the same deer hunting rifles that I used and I now pass on to my son. The guys coming back from the Korean War and World War II would actually dispense these rifles through the Springfield Armory.

So for a guy who is a deer hunter, who is not that good of a shot, but for a guy who is a deer hunter, my first 30.06 we ever got came out of the Springfield Armory Works.

So I am thankful today to be able to work with the ranking member and see this legislation pushed through.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4376, the "Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts Act of 2005." This legislation authorizes the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College.

Over 30 years ago, in 1974, my predecessor, Congressman Edward Boland, and Senator KENNEDY were successful in creating the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. This Boland-Kennedy legislation set in motion three decades of cooperation between the National Park Service, which manages the armory museum, and Springfield Technical Community College.

The National Park Service and Springfield Technical Community College are neighbors that together occupy the National Historic Site.

The Springfield Armory was the first national armory in the United States. In fact, the armory was founded in 1777, when the site was selected as the location for a magazine and laboratory for the development, production, and storage of guns and powder during the American Revolution.

Following the American Revolutionary War, in 1794 Congress officially established the Springfield Armory. George Washington visited the site, which also happened to be the site of Shay's Rebellion. For much of the 19th century, the Springfield Armory developed, manufactured and supplied most of the small arms used by the United States armed services. The Springfield Armory National Historic Site has a rich heritage that is an integral part of our Nation's history.

In 1968 the armory was deactivated as a military installation and in 1974 Congress established the National Historic Site. The National Park Service has operated the armory museum on these grounds, and it houses the most outstanding and historically significant arms collection in the country.

The future and fate of both the armory museum and Springfield Technical Community College are inextricably linked. Many of the historic buildings on the site are actually located on the college's property, not National Park Service land, although a visitor to the campus would not be able to tell where NPS property ends and college property begins.

The land outside the portion of the site administered by NPS is known as the "Preservation Control Area." These college-owned buildings are subject to strict architectural and preservation rules. Many of these historic buildings owned by the college must be preserved and maintained pursuant to standards defined by the Secretary of the Interior. But

these historic buildings are in a state of great disrepair and the college cannot easily move to maintain and preserve them absent the full participation of the Park Service. Not only does this deterioration of the facilities hurt the college, but also undermines the attractiveness of the National Park Service area, including the armory museum.

My legislation seeks to recognize and update the partnership that has existed over these many years between the Park Service and the college by authorizing the Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth for NPS to provide financial assistance to the college for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating, and rehabilitating the many historic structures within the Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

The Park Service frequently enters into such cooperative agreements where the object of the agreement is of direct benefit to the Park Service and its mission or for other public purposes. If these great historic buildings on the site can be renovated with the assistance of the Park Service, it will bring forward a more vibrant and attractive historic site and museum. The Park Service and the college will be able to partner on many joint educational ventures that utilize these revitalized historic facilities.

The Springfield Armory National Historic Site is a treasure to the city of Springfield, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the Nation. The site is in desperate need of renovation. Enactment of this legislation is the first step toward ensuring the preservation of a site, which has played so vital a role in our Nation's history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4376, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAIL OF TEARS STUDY ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3085) to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3085

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVISION OF FEASIBILITY AND SUITABILITY STUDY OF TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

Section 5(a)(16) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(16)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "subsections" and inserting "sections"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the